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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 November 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.14)*]

71/16. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization in which it invited various specialized agencies, as well as other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant financial institutions, to join in the efforts towards realizing its goals and the objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Appreciating the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to strengthen its relations with the United Nations system and with relevant international and regional organizations for the development and implementation of projects and programmes in areas of common interest,

Noting the efforts made by the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations in extending technical and financial assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the development and implementation of programmes and projects pertaining to socioeconomic progress, and encouraging them to continue their support,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 69/111 of 10 December 2014,[1] and acknowledges the growing cooperation between the two organizations;

2. *Takes note* of the Baku Declaration, issued at the twelfth Economic Cooperation Organization summit meeting of Heads of State and/or Government of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Baku on 16 October 2012;[2]

[1] See A/71/160-S/2016/621, sect. II.

[2] A/67/581, annex.

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3. *Appreciates* the continuing efforts to strengthen the existing cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization, especially in the field of trade capacity-building of member States, notes with satisfaction the signing of the project document between the two organizations on 18 March 2014 for the implementation of the third phase of their joint programme, aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States to strengthen their standards, metrology, testing and quality infrastructure, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies to consider supporting the implementation of the project;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre to develop strategies for the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization for trade liberalization and the promotion of foreign direct investment to facilitate the global and regional integration of their economies;

5. *Notes* the progress made on the trade facilitation programme of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, especially the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, to support the Organization in developing a trade facilitation agreement, single windows in the member States, the TradeNet web portal and a unified visa system for facilitating the work of the region's businesspeople and enhancing regional trade;

6. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to implement the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement [3] for the enhancement of intraregional trade, and invites the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre to consider extending technical assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the implementation of the Trade Agreement and the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to assist the States members of the Organization in the trade facilitation process, leading to the regional and global integration of their economies;

7. *Notes* the basic development needs of landlocked countries, including their need to overcome the limitations arising from their geographical positions, the lack of access to open seas and seaport facilities and other challenges hindering their promotion of transit transport cooperation, and invites the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other relevant international and regional bodies to assist and cooperate with the Economic Cooperation Organization on the proposed study project of the Office and the Organization on the possibility of providing concessional services for landlocked countries in selected ports of transit countries of the region, within existing resources;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the approval of the railway network development plan of the Economic Cooperation Organization at the eleventh meeting of heads of railway authorities of the member States, held in Ankara in June 2012, and of the road network development plan at the sixth meeting of the Road Committee of the Transit Transport Coordination Council, held in Tehran in December 2013, and

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2562, No. 45696.

invites all the relevant international financial and specialized institutions to consider participating in the implementation of the plans, taking into account the key role played by the railway and road networks of the region as land bridges between Asia and Europe;

9. *Notes* the recommendations of the joint workshop of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe on a unified railway law, held in Ankara in June 2012, regarding the formulation of a unified law on international freight and passenger traffic by rail with a view to the facilitation of transport by rail in the region, and invites the relevant United Nations agencies to consider implementing the recommendations;

10. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe and other institutions for the reactivation of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention)[4] in Afghanistan, the accession of Pakistan to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail[5] in 2013 and the accession of Pakistan to the TIR Convention in 2016, and expresses its satisfaction for the test run of trucks transporting goods under cover of TIR carnets envisaged along the road transport corridor between Islamabad, Tehran and Istanbul, Turkey, with a view to the operationalization of the TIR Convention in Pakistan;

11. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to develop two road transport corridors, between Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, and between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, invites the relevant international and regional organizations, notably the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Europe, to consider participating in the fields of study, demonstration caravans and other activities envisaged in the project of the Economic Cooperation Organization to develop these corridors, within their respective mandates, and, noting the progress on development of the two road transport corridors, invites the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe to conduct a study on road safety along these corridors and to organize capacity-building programmes and training courses on road safety and security with the support of the relevant institutions, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization that have not done so to accede to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road,[6] the TIR Convention, the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods,[7] the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road[8] and the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies and other international bodies to provide the necessary support to the States members of the Organization, particularly for capacity-building activities and the holding of workshops;

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[4] Ibid., vol. 1079, No. 16510.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1397, No. 23353.

[6] Ibid., vol. 399, No. 5742.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1409, No. 23583.

[8] Ibid., vol. 619, No. 8940.

13. *Invites* the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to cooperate with the Economic Cooperation Organization for the facilitation of transit trade among the States members of the Organization and the modernization of their border crossing points;

14. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Economic Cooperation Organization to conduct a feasibility study on the need for the development of information and communications technology, infrastructure connectivity and services in the region, and invites all relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, especially the International Telecommunication Union, to consider providing, where appropriate, capacity-building and technical assistance to the Organization for the conduct and follow-up of the aforementioned study;

15. *Notes* the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization to prepare a technical assistance project proposal on the implementation of the regional programmes for food security of the Economic Cooperation Organization under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme administered by the World Bank, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to consider providing technical and financial assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization for preparing and implementing detailed project proposals under the programme components suitable to the needs of the member States;

16. *Recognizes* the growing importance of tourism in the sustainable development of the region and its potential in the promotion of a sustainable economy, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies and other organizations, especially the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, to consider extending financial and technical support to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the development of regional projects related to tourism promotion and to support its programmes;

17. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recent efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at underlining the special and increasing role of renewable energy in complementing conventional energy in order to support sustainable energy development, and requests the relevant United Nations agencies to consider rendering financial and technical support, as appropriate, for regional projects in the fields of energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy;

18. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts within the Economic Cooperation Organization for the establishment of a regional electricity market, and invites the United Nations and other relevant international bodies, including the Energy Charter secretariat, to extend their support to this important environment-friendly initiative;

19. *Welcomes* the idea of the development of a joint programme by the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization for sustainable energy and, as its outcome, the establishment of a regional energy centre, and calls upon the relevant United Nations agencies and international financial institutions to consider extending their financial and technical support for the development and implementation stages of this programme;

20. *Recognizes* the significance of mutual cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization in addressing the global challenges referred to in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled

"Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and emphasizes the necessity of regular cooperation between the two organizations for achieving the goals envisaged in that resolution;

21. *Appreciates* the success of the second consultative ministerial meeting on environment of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Nairobi on 27 May 2016 on the sidelines of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and the meeting of senior officials of the Organization on the environment, held in Paris on 7 December 2015 on the sidelines of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and invites all donor-designated agencies and the United Nations Environment Programme to consider extending financial and technical assistance for regional projects, workshops and high-level group meetings in the field of the environment;

22. *Notes with satisfaction* the success of the workshop held jointly by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran from 29 April to 1 May 2014 on harnessing climate financing for sustainable forest management in the region, and highly appreciates the key recommendation of the workshop to establish an inter-agency coordination group with the involvement of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as the possibility of granting observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the meetings of the United Nations Forum on Forests to enhance interregional coordination on climate change issues, including sustainable forest management;

23. *Also notes with satisfaction* the success of the second joint workshop of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Tehran from 26 to 30 October 2015, on regional capacity-building on designing projects on sustainable forest management in the region, and welcomes the meeting organized and convened jointly in Tehran from 26 to 28 September 2016 by the Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests to enhance the involvement of regional and subregional organizations in the development and implementation of the strategic plan of the international arrangement on forests, as well as enhancing coordination and synergy with regard to the implementation of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Appreciates* the enhanced cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization and United Nations environmental agencies and the secretariats of conventions, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and welcomes the recent granting of observer status to the Organization with the United Nations Environment Programme and with the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

25. *Highlights* the importance of enhanced cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system concerning the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, and

encourages the relevant United Nations entities, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, to consider extending technical and financial support to the Economic Cooperation Organization in this regard, as appropriate;

26. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to enhance cooperation in the field of health in the region in collaboration with international organizations and the specialized agencies, especially the World Health Organization, the International Society of Blood Transfusion, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund, and encourages their continued support for the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of health;

27. *Notes* the vulnerability of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization to natural disasters, and urges the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Development Programme, to consider expanding their cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization in the area of natural and man-made disaster risk reduction and also to consider extending their technical and financial support for the activities of the Organization in the field of natural disaster risk management in the region, including the ongoing efforts to prepare and implement the regional framework for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[9] in the region;

28. *Appreciates* the joint cooperation of the Economic Cooperation Organization with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in organizing and conducting the capacity-building workshop on the compilation of quarterly national accounts for States members of the Organization in March 2015, as well as with the other United Nations subsidiary bodies in the field of statistics, and invites the Division to consider extending technical and financial support for the design and implementation of a programme for the development of statistics in the region;

29. *Highlights* the importance of high-quality statistics as a tool for the implementation of development goals and the importance of future cooperation and partnership between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Statistics Division in this regard, and encourages the Division to consider extending technical and financial support to the Organization in the field of statistics, as appropriate;

30. *Appreciates* the joint cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in conducting, in Tehran from 24 to 28 July 2016, the refresher training workshop for focal points on the CountrySTAT system, as part of the second phase of the project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on support for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization countries;

[9] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

31. *Welcomes* the joint cooperation of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in conducting, in Tehran from 8 to 10 December 2013, a training workshop on science, technology and innovation indicators for member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and invites the Institute to consider extending technical assistance for the development of statistical activities in the area of research and development and innovation statistics in the region;

32. *Appreciates* the efforts and activities of the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit of the Economic Cooperation Organization in compiling and disseminating drug-related data, organizing workshops and training programmes aimed at enhancing the technical and professional expertise of the officials working in the relevant anti-narcotics forces and agencies of its member States, taking measures to harmonize the policies and drug-related laws and regulations of three member States, namely Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and contributing to the alternative development policies and programmes in Afghanistan, welcomes the successful completion of the European Union-funded project on the fight against trafficking from and to Afghanistan, and encourages the United Nations agencies and the donor community, such as the European Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue to provide technical and financial assistance to the Organization in its efforts against drug-related and other related crimes;

33. *Acknowledges* the ongoing efforts of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization to strengthen regional cooperation to combat drugs and organized crime, including the establishment of a police mechanism, a regional judicial and legal cooperation mechanism and the Economic Cooperation Organization regional centre for the cooperation of anti-corruption agencies and ombudsmen, and invites the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to assist and support those efforts;

34. *Appreciates* the contributions made by the Economic Cooperation Organization towards reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, commends its active participation in and constructive contributions to various regional and international initiatives on Afghanistan, especially appreciates its support for the high-level Core Group of Regional Forum Secretaries-General, established at the meeting of the regional bodies on 19 July 2010, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan,[10] and invites relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations to assist the Organization in implementing its new advocacy policies and programmes developed on the basis of the outcomes of its special conference on Afghanistan, held in Kabul from 22 to 24 October 2016;

35. *Notes with appreciation* the activities of the Cultural Institute, the Science Foundation and the Educational Institute of the Economic Cooperation Organization as specialized arms of the Organization to foster regional cooperation among its member States in the fields of culture, science and education,

[10] A/66/601-S/2011/767, annex.

respectively, and encourages the relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to cooperate with these bodies, within the scope of their mandate and existing resources, in order to develop and implement appropriate projects for the promotion of science and education in the region;

36. *Stresses* that all technical and financial support should be considered in line with the relevant mandates and as appropriate;

37. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization as an affiliated body of the Organization, and encourages the Assembly to contribute to the strengthening of multifaceted regional cooperation in the region;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

39. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

48th plenary meeting
21 November 2016